

METROPOLITAN GAS-LIGHT COMPANY.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 522.]

MARCH 30, 1860.

Mr. CARTER, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the petition of Henry S. Davis and others praying for a charter to incorporate them into a company for the purpose of building gas works and supplying the city of Washington with gas, have considered the same, and ask leave to report :

That after a full and careful investigation of the subject your committee have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to have a wholesome competition in the manufacture and distribution of gas as well as in many other branches of business, so as to enable the consumers to procure the article at a fair price, and as your committee believe that the present company who are manufacturing gas in this city are charging a high price for the same, and as your committee believe that the only remedy is in chartering a new company, to come in competition with the old one, and as your committee believe that the petitioners are honest and sincere in their application, and intend to build up gas works so as to cheapen the price of gas both to the government and citizens of the city, and also to improve the quality of the same, therefore, your committee ask leave to report the accompanying bill, with the recommendation that it pass.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled :

The undersigned petitioners would respectfully represent that the gas company in the city of Washington, D. C., chartered by an act of Congress in the year 1848, have charged and do continue to charge an exorbitant price for the gas furnished the government and also the citizens of the city, their charge being four dollars per thousand feet for gas of an inferior quality ; and in the opinion of your petitioners

the only remedy is in forming a new company which will come in competition with the old company. Therefore, your petitioners respectfully pray your honorable bodies that you will grant them a charter to construct gas works and lay down pipes throughout the city, so as to furnish the government and also the citizens with gas at less price than they are now paying, and of better quality; and as in duty bound will ever pray.

H. S. DAVIS.
CYRUS MOORE.
GEO. W. COCHRAN.
JAMES G. ELLIS.
J. HEPBURN.
HARMON BURNS.
J. SHILLINGTON.

DECEMBER 5, 1859.